

General Information

(Below are questions that previous incoming interns had concerning their move to Hawai'i and the Graduate Medical Office response to these questions. Please review the following to see if your question has been answered before.)

General

Question: Regarding the questionnaire, if we return it via email, does it need to be signed by hand? In other words, do we need to complete it, print it, sign it, scan it, and then send it back?

Response: No, the questionnaire does not need to be signed by hand and scanned if you return it via email.

Question: About what time do residents start there day at Tripler?

Response: It really depends what rotation you are on and whether morning conferences are scheduled. Most outpatient rotations start around 7:30 a.m. Residents may need to be here at 5:00 a.m. to ensure that they are adequately prepared to start the day on an inpatient rotation. The Emergency Room rotation usually starts at 7:00 a.m.

Question: How have the interns in the past done it? I know some of the interns from this year's class had told me that they were scrambling around looking for a place to live, staying at the Tripler Lodge in the meantime.

Response: Yes, that is correct. All military personnel who don't live on post pretty much have to scramble for a place to live unless they are able to arrange to "take over" a departing soldier's house.

Question: Quick clarification of the BLS, PALS, and ACLS training. If I come with proof of certification, will I be completely free on the days scheduled for training (i.e. not have to report those days)?

Response: You should be free on those days to take care of your remaining in-processing requirements and other personal or family matters. If you are not required to be registered in NRP or PALS, your respective program director does have the option of requiring you to attend department level training on those particular days.

Question: What ribbons are we authorized to wear?

Response: You are authorized: Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Army Service Ribbon.

Leave and Pass Information

Question: I'm not sure if you are the person to address this question to, but this is in regards to the leave policies of active duty soldiers. As an intern, if I had a whole weekend off (i.e. not on call, not needing to come to Tripler to round, etc) what is the radius within which I am required to stay? Would I be able to fly to a neighbor island to see family (I have relatives on Kaua'i) without having to use my vacation days?

Response:

You are not allowed to fly to the mainland unless you are on leave status, i.e., using vacation days. You may be charged vacation time for weekends depending on the timing of your departure and arrival. If you return from leave on a weekend day or holiday you usually won't be charged leave for that particular day since these days are not regularly scheduled work days for staff.

As for visiting the neighbor islands, you don't need to burn vacation (leave) time to do so as long as you are not scheduled to work those days. The Troop Command used to require all staff visiting neighbor islands on weekends and holidays to obtain a pass, i.e., a certificate for "free" time off. I will check to see if these are still required. You will need to let your program director know about any off-island travel plans.

Question: Is a pass required for someone to go to a neighbor island during their off-time, e.g., weekend or holiday? TAMC Memo 600-8-10 alludes to off-island passes but doesn't explicitly require them for neighbor island travel during a regularly scheduled day off.

Response:

A Pass is not required but always the best idea when someone has to rely on "other" transportation. LTC Pierce

Editorial comment: I would agree with LTC Pierce. The chain of command needs to know that you are off-island in the event you encounter problems flying back to Oahu in time for work. And you do need to keep the Program Director informed of your whereabouts for the same reason.

Orders Information

Question: I've been contacted by a member of this year's intern class at TAMC stating that before our orders will be cut, our spouses have to be assessed for Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), and we have to be medically cleared for an OCONUS assignment. I attend USUHS. Are you aware of any of this?

Response:

I am not aware of this and found nothing in the orders from last year's interns requiring this clearance. However, the requirement likely applies to those soldiers with family members who are already on active duty. It may be that only USUHS students have to do this because of their current status and not the HPSP students. I'm not sure what the Army does to facilitate this for its new residents who are reporting to their first duty station directly from a civilian medical school. However, we spoke with a couple of our current interns who entered active duty via the HPSP program and they did not recall undergoing formal EFMP processing prior to leaving the mainland.

The purpose of the EFMP is to ensure that required social and medical services are available to your family members who may need them before they are allowed to accompany you overseas. While Hawai'i is considered an overseas assignment, most social and medical services are available here so it isn't an issue. However, there are a few exceptions involving some services for certain mentally retarded patients and organ transplant recipients. I will follow up with our EFMP administrator and try to get more information.

Question: My main questions are regarding my orders. I understand that we will not be receiving our orders until late March/early April...with that in mind, am I able to arrange my flight and accommodation reservations before I receive my orders if I know my exact dates and locations? Also, can I contact the movers to set up a date for my household goods to be picked up (that is, contacting them before I receive my orders)? I am planning on arriving in Hawaii well before our report date, and I would like to start planning and getting some reservations in order. If any of this is possible, I assume I need to call the Carlson Wagonlit company for my airline reservations, but who do I contact for my household goods? I tried looking online and on MODS, but I cannot find any information. Please let me know if you have any information on this.

Response:

My understanding is that you need your orders in hand to make travel and transportation arrangements. You don't need the orders to make a reservation for temporary lodging. However, the partial certificate of non-availability from Tripler Lodging referenced in the temporary lodging instructions we sent earlier consists of a stamped copy of your orders. If you don't have your orders when you call Tripler Lodging and are told a room is not available ask to speak to Pat or Rose so that they may put your name on a list of individuals to be given a partial certificate of non-availability at a later date. Or you may choose to wait and book lodging when you receive your orders.

Your recruiter should tell you where the nearest transportation and travel office are located and provide you with the telephone numbers. You should also check out the "[Travel Information](#)" link on the external website that we sent earlier if you cannot get help from your recruiter.

Note: Both Thomas and Connie are still at the Human Resources Command - St. Louis Transportation Office.

Question:

1. Any word on how soon we might be getting orders cut? It's getting tight with a 60-day window on getting housing goods/vehicles from the East coast to there by 01 June.

2. Is there any time frame that I should expect to receive my orders? I would like to start my relocation planning. Do you have all the necessary information for me at this time?

Response:

HPSP students: Your orders are issued by Human Resources Command - St. Louis. In the meantime, ensure that you have spoken with your recruiter and know how to get in touch with your supporting transportation and travel office. Army USUHS students: Your orders are issued by Walter Reed Army Medical Center and provide specific information about where to call for transportation and travel arrangements. Note: The orders for Army USUHS students were delayed last year and we were told that it wouldn't happen again.

Here's the latest from Ms. Janna Cox, GME Division, HQDA, OTSG:

"From: Cox, Janna L Ms OTSG
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2007 8:27 AM
To: Christal, Gary W Mr TAMC
Subject: RE: Question about Orders

Gary,

I just spoke with Ms. Phyllis Coleman (you probably remember her well from last year's process) from Human Resources Command - St. Louis who indicated that students should begin to see orders, via email, in about 2 weeks. They usually prioritize orders generation by report date. With TAMC's report date being the earliest of our MEDCENs, they should prioritize working the orders for your students first. I will hold them to task, but remind you that the operative word that she used was "SHOULD".

Thanks,
Janna"

This page was last updated on 26 April 2007.